

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a substrate, the method  
2 comprising:
  - 3 (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;
  - 4 (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;
  - 5 (c) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite  
6 side of the fibers from the substrate; and
  - 7 (d) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
8 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with the  
9 wearing surface of particulate.
- 1 2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the substrate is a solid substrate.

- 1 3. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is concrete.
- 1 4. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is asphalt  
2 pavement.
- 1 5. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is wood.
- 1 6. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is fiberglass  
2 composite.
- 1 7. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is metal.
- 1 8. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is modular bricks.
- 1 9. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the substrate is particulate.
- 1 10. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is soil.
- 1 11. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is sand.
- 1 12. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is gravel.

1 13. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is a combination  
2 selected from the group of soil, sand and gravel.

1 14. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of interposing a  
2 membrane between the substrate and the liquid matrix material for preventing the liquid  
3 matrix material from adhering substantially to the substrate.

1 15. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the membrane is plastic sheeting.

1 16. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the membrane is a release agent.

1 17. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the substrate is a solid substrate.

1 18. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is concrete.

1 19. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is asphalt  
2 pavement.

1 20. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is wood.

- 1 21. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is fiberglass  
2 composite.
- 1 22. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is metal.
- 1 23. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is modular  
2 bricks.
- 1 24. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the substrate is particulate.
- 1 25. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is soil.
- 1 26. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is sand.
- 1 27. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is gravel.
- 1 28. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is a combination  
2 selected from the group of soil, sand and gravel.
- 1 29. A wear-resistant reinforcing coating formed on a substrate, the coating comprising:  
2 (a) a matrix adjacent the substrate;

- 3           (b) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix; and  
4           (c) particulate adhered to the matrix on an opposite side of the fibers from the  
5           substrate.

1    30. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, wherein the  
2    substrate is a solid substrate.

1    31. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, wherein the  
2    substrate is particulate.

1    32. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, further  
2    comprising a membrane interposed between the substrate and the matrix, thereby  
3    preventing adhesion of the matrix to the substrate.

1    33. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 32, wherein the  
2    substrate is a solid substrate.

1    34. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 32, wherein the  
2    substrate is particulate.

1 35. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a solid substrate, the  
2 method comprising:

3 (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;

4 (b) interposing a membrane between the substrate and the liquid matrix material  
5 for preventing the liquid matrix material from adhering substantially to the solid  
6 substrate;

7 (c) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;

8 (d) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite  
9 side of the fibers from the substrate; and

10 (e) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
11 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with the  
12 wearing surface of particulate.

1 36. A wear-resistant reinforcing coating formed on a solid substrate, the coating  
2 comprising:

3 (a) a matrix adjacent the substrate;

4 (b) a membrane interposed between the substrate and the matrix, thereby  
5 preventing adhesion of the matrix to the substrate;

6 (c) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix; and

7 (d) particulate adhered to the matrix on an opposite side of the fibers from the  
8 substrate.

1 37. A method of forming a reinforced floor having a substrate, the method comprising:

2 (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;

3 (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;

4 (c) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
5 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of hardened liquid matrix material, wherein an  
6 exposed surface of the reinforcement is unsuitable for foot traffic; and

7 (d) mounting a layer of rigid flooring material to said substrate above said  
8 composite of reinforcing fibers, said layer of flooring material having a wearing  
9 surface that is suitable for traffic.

1 38. A reinforced floor having a planar substrate, the reinforced floor comprising:

2 (a) a hardened, planar matrix mounted to the substrate;

3 (b) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix;

4 (c) a planar layer of rigid flooring material mounted to the substrate above the  
5 reinforcing fibers, said layer of flooring material having a planar wearing surface  
6 that is suitable for traffic.

1 39. A modular flooring unit of a discrete size and weight that can be lifted by a human,  
2 the flooring unit comprising:

3 (a) a planar matrix;

4 (b) reinforcing fibers embedded in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix;

5 (c) particulate mounted to a major surface of the matrix.

1 40. The flooring unit in accordance with claim 39, wherein the particulate mounted to  
2 the matrix forms the traffic-bearing surface of the flooring unit.

1 41. A method of forming a modular flooring unit of a size and weight that can be lifted  
2 by a human, the method comprising:

3 (a) placing a liquid matrix material in a receptacle;

4 (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;

5 (c) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite  
6 side of the fibers from the substrate; and

7 (d) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
8 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with a traffic-  
9 bearing surface of particulate.

1 42. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a substrate, the method  
2 comprising:

3 (a) aligning a composite with the substrate, the composite comprising a hardened  
4 matrix embedded with reinforcing fibers;

5 (b) applying an adhesive between the composite and the substrate;



- 6 (c) forcing the composite against the substrate with the adhesive in a layer
- 7 interposed between the composite and the substrate;
- 8 (d) applying adhesive to the composite on a side of the composite opposite the
- 9 substrate;
- 10 (e) placing particulate in contact with the adhesive; and
- 11 (f) hardening the adhesive, thereby forming a wearing surface of particulate.